



Memorandum

**TO: RULES AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

FROM: Councilmember Rose Herrera

SUBJECT: Public Safety Public Comment

DATE: November 4, 2014

APPROVE

Rose Herrera

DATE

11/4/14

DB

RECOMMENDATION:

Agendize additional public comment directly following item 1 on the November 7th Special Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND:

During the October 29th Rules and Open Government Committee (Committee), the members present made the decision to defer the study session titled "Police Department Operations and Performance" until the November 18th meeting. In place of this item they moved the Mayor's item, titled "Police Recruits," to the November 7th Special Council Meeting.

The reason for this move was clearly stated at the October 29th rules meeting. One of my colleagues was concerned that the discussion of this issue would be overshadowed by election politics if it was heard on its originally proposed date, November 4th. To depoliticize and guarantee an informed debate on this topic, he recommended that this item be heard following elections. The Committee chose the November 7th meeting fearing that the 18th was too long to sit on this issue. For the sake of time the Committee chose to defer the "Police Department and Performance" item until the November 18th Council Meeting.

This however does not change the fact that we have several concerned residents from all over the city that had planned on voicing their concerns about public safety at the November 7th meeting, and may not be aware of the scheduling change or are unavailable on the 18th. Respecting the decision of the Committee and taking residents' concerns into consideration I am proposing the addition of a second public comment at the November 7th meeting. This would allow any residents who were planning on speaking at this meeting to voice their concerns to the council as we prepare for the discussion on November 18th.

I would also like to invite back all those who are planning to speak at our November 7th meeting to attend the discussion on the 18th as well. It is no small matter to be as available and open as possible when it comes to our residents. For this reason I am requesting the additional public comment to be agendized for the November 7th Special Council Meeting.